

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-22 remain pending. By the foregoing amendment, claims 4 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 4 and 15, respectively. Claims 5 and 16 have been amended to correct their dependencies. Claims 11 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form so as to include the limitations of base claims 1 and 12, respectively. No new matter is added. The amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance and therefore appropriate for entry under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 4, 5, 11, 15, 16, and 22 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claims 4 and 15, respectively. Claims 11 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form so as to include the limitations of base claims 1 and 12, respectively. It is believed that amended independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 12-14, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, U.S. Patent 6,082,368 (“Brown”). Claims 6-8 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Williams WO 00/15056 (“Williams”). By the foregoing amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 4 and 20, respectively. Therefore, each of these rejections is now moot.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below if doing so would be helpful to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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